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The Urban District Council of Hexham

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

For the Year 1958



J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

## STAFF

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Medical Officer of Health

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J. K. PATTERSON   Assistant Public Health Inspector

A. SUMMERS   Clerk

The Urban District Council of Hexham

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council  
of Hexham :*

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1958.

There is little change to record in the circumstances of the district, and rapid change of any kind is not to be expected. The population is virtually stationary at a figure a little below 10,000, and industrially there has been no new development. Hexham remains the market town for a large agricultural area, and increasingly attracts visitors on account of its own beauty and history and on account of its proximity to the Roman Wall.

The National Health Service has now been in operation for ten years, but has made little alteration to the health functions of a district council. The Council do, however, assist to administer the major services delegated by the County Council through a representation of four councillors on the West Area Health Sub-Committee.

There were fewer births during 1958 than in previous years, and there were more deaths. The result was a natural loss in population of 24. While too great importance should not be attached to the figures for any one year, it must be recorded that the birth rate was below the national average and the death rate and infant mortality rate above it. There were four deaths in infancy, all due to prematurity or congenital malformation, and therefore non-preventable in the present stage of knowledge. The infant mortality rate has fallen progressively year by year for many years, and of course further reductions become more difficult as the rate decreases. The deaths at all ages numbered 149. Nearly two-thirds were of persons aged 70 years or over, and nearly one-third in persons over 80 years of age. That being so, the total figure is not unsatisfactory. While diseases of the heart and circulation accounted for more than half the deaths, as of recent years, cancer was more frequent as a cause of death than in other years. The increase in deaths from lung cancer is particularly striking, though its significance may be more apparent than real. There were 11 deaths compared with 2 in 1957, and 10 were of men. Two men died



in their 40's, two in their 50's and three in their 60's. Cancer of the lung is increasing throughout this country and in many other countries, and not all the increase is due to better diagnosis. It is accepted that there is a direct connection between cigarette smoking and lung cancer, and efforts are being made to draw public attention to this fact, especially with a view to discouraging young people from developing the habit. It is also known that atmospheric pollution is related to the incidence of lung cancer, but direct cause and effect cannot be assumed.

The vital statistics for 1958 are rather less favourable than those for 1957, but no valid conclusions can be drawn from changes from one year to another. To establish a broader view of comparison I have consulted the Annual Report for 1908. In that year the infant mortality rate was 185 per 1,000 births, 38 children dying in the first year of life : the four infant deaths in 1958 gave an infant mortality rate of 32 per 1,000. The common infections of childhood—whooping cough, diphtheria and gastro-enteritis—caused 28 deaths, 6 being from diphtheria, while no child died of these diseases during 1958. Tuberculosis was giving cause for concern in 1908 : it caused 20 deaths from pulmonary disease and a further 12 deaths from non-pulmonary disease. The report has to say : “ the death rate for tuberculosis is about the highest in the County. In 1905 we were the highest, in 1907 we were a good second.” Now, although tuberculosis continues to be found, it causes few deaths, and none in 1958. These few figures show how much has been done during this century to improve health and save lives, with improved housing as the basic factor.

Little comment need be made on the incidence of infectious disease during 1958. Whooping cough was widespread, but relatively mild. Influenza was again epidemic towards the end of the year, and this is reflected in the number of notifications of pneumonia. Two cases of poliomyelitis were notified from a local hospital but both patients were resident outside the town. Vaccination against poliomyelitis has been widely accepted, and the great majority of children under 15, and of expectant mothers, were vaccinated during 1958. The response among young people between the ages of 15 and 25 was only about 25%, but even this compares favourably with the response elsewhere in the country.

1958 was the last full year during which the Council will control its own water undertaking, as this service will pass to the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company during 1959 as part of the South-West Northumberland scheme. The present system has given good service but the demand for water will exceed its capabilities and augmentation will be required. Pumping from the Rowley Burn, which is a matter of expediency rather than choice, continued during the summer and will be required in dry weather until the completion of the new works to bring in additional piped water. Once this additional supply is available Hexham will have its needs fully met for the foreseeable future.

While maintenance continues at the sewage works, and small improvements have been carried out, the major extensions and improvements required have not yet been undertaken. The Woodlands disposal works give a good effluent, but the Tyne Green and Peth Head disposal works are over-loaded and out-of-date. The proposed improvement scheme for these latter two works is with the Ministry, and a local enquiry will probably be ordered before the scheme is approved.

In presenting this report I have to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, who continue to show interest in the work of the Department and to give it their support. I have also to acknowledge the co-operation I have received from the officials, and the helpfulness and efficiency of the Public Health Staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	5,932
Estimated Population	..	..	..	..	..	9,370

### Vital Statistics.

#### BIRTHS :

LIVE BIRTHS			M.	F.		Total
Legitimate	..	..	68	52	..	120
Illegitimate	..	..	3	2	..	5
						<hr/> 125

STILL BIRTHS			M.	F.		Total
Legitimate	..	..	3	2	..	5
Illegitimate	..	..	<hr/>	<hr/>	..	<hr/> 5

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population						13.2
Total Live and Still Births	..	..	..	..	..	130
Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	13.7
Still-births Rate per 1,000 live and still-births					..	38.8
Live Birth Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	16.4
Still-births Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live and still-births	..	..	..	..	..	21.6

#### DEATHS :

Total Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	149
Total infant deaths	..	..	..	..	..	4
Infant deaths under four weeks	..	..	..	..	..	2
Deaths of infants under one year of age :—						
Legitimate infants	..	..	..	..	..	2
Illegitimate infants	..	..	..	..	..	2



Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births .. ..	32.3
Infantile Mortality, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births .. .. .	22.5
Infantile Mortality (Legitimate) per 1,000 live births	16.8
Infantile Mortality (Illegitimate) per 1,000 live births .. .. .	400.0
Infantile Mortality (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births .. .. .	16.1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births..	4%
Deaths from maternal causes .. ..	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births .. .. .	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. ..	31
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (All causes and ages) .. .. .	14.7
Death Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population (All causes and ages) .. .. .	11.7

The following Table classifies deaths according to their age groups and as to their certification :—

	CERTIFIED		UNCERTIFIED	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1	2	2	—	—
1—2	—	1	—	—
2—5	1	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	1	—	—
25—45	1	2	—	—
45—50	5	—	—	—
50—55	3	3	—	—
55—60	7	3	—	—
60—65	4	6	—	—
65—70	10	8	—	—
70—75	14	10	2	—
75—80	10	12	—	—
80—85	7	8	—	—
85—90	9	9	—	—
90—95	—	8	—	—
95—100	—	1	—	—
	73	74	2	—

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of resp. system .. .. .	—	—
Tuberculosis, other .. .. .	—	—
Syphilitic disease .. .. .	—	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—
Whooping Cough .. .. .	—	—
Meningococcal infections .. .. .	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis .. .. .	—	—
Measles .. .. .	—	—
Other infective and parasitic disease .. .. .	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	1	2
,,    ,,    lung, bronchus .. .. .	10	1
,,    ,,    breast .. .. .	—	2
,,    ,,    uterus .. .. .	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	6	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	1	—
Diabetes .. .. .	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	9	18
Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	13	9
Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	1	2
Other heart disease .. .. .	8	9
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	5	1
Influenza .. .. .	—	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	1	5
Bronchitis .. .. .	5	1
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	2	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	—	—
Congenital malformations .. .. .	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	7	5
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	—	1
All other accidents .. .. .	1	2
Suicide .. .. .	—	1
Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	—	—
All causes .. .. .	75	74
TOTAL .. .. .	149	

# INFANT MORTALITY DURING YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under 1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 wk.	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	Total under 1 mth	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total Deaths under 1 yr.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pul. Tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculosis Diseases ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculosis) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Premature Birth ..	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
Marasmus ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at birth ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All causes { Certified ..	2	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	4
{ Uncertified ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
GRAND TOTALS ..	2	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	4

## VITAL &amp; MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1938	14.0	13.5	47.2
1939	12.1	15.6	36.6
1940	12.8	13.4	43.4
1941	12.6	13.3	93.9
1942	11.9	12.9	64.5
1943	13.2	12.8	50.7
1944	14.0	13.6	37.5
1945	13.2	11.8	15.4
1946	16.6	12.4	18.5
1947	18.5	14.3	54.9
1948	17.7	12.2	12.4
1949	13.9	17.3	39.4
1950	16.0	13.7	53.0
1951	14.1	13.6	38.2
1952	13.7	11.4	62.0
1953	13.2	11.09	24.0
1954	12.7	10.8	33.05
1955	14.2	10.7	22.3
1956	13.7	13.05	15.2
1957	15.4	12.2	27.2
1958	13.2	14.7	32.3

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1958.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 & upward	Age not known
Scarlet Fever ...	6	4	2	2	7	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	39	4	2	11	22	1	1	1	1	1
Diphtheria ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles ...	10	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	2	1
Pneumonia ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute poliomyelitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute polioencephalitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Encephalitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lethargica ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dysentery ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Smallpox ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paratyphoid Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Typhoid Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Meningitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Malaria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTALS ...	62	4	3	16	31	1	2	3	2	1



INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1938-1958.

Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Ac. Pneumonia	Cerebrospinal Fever.	Acute Polio-myelitis	Acute Polio-encephalitis	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Pyrexia	Smallpox	Paratyphoid Fevers	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Meningitis
1938	32	—	5	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	—	—
1939	25	—	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—
1940	11	—	10	212	10	12	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
1941	20	39	80	46	14	4	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
1942	12	1	15	6	39	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
1943	17	7	3	116	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1944	18	1	17	—	5	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
1945	34	—	1	8	7	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1946	7	24	1	93	7	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
1947	6	18	1	29	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
1948	7	31	—	60	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59	—
1949	12	7	—	8	10	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	—
1950	14	7	—	298	1	—	9	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
1951	9	18	—	10	7	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1952	5	17	—	143	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1953	29	51	—	86	7	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	2
1954	5	14	—	6	5	—	3	—	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
1955	4	18	—	103	4	1	1	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
1956	1	3	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1957	8	1	—	102	9	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1958	9	39	—	1	10	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS, 1938-1958

Year	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Other	Pulmonary	Other
1938	9	5	2	1
1939	10	4	6	1
1940	6	2	6	—
1941	11	1	3	—
1942	6	2	6	—
1943	15	2	4	—
1944	10	1	4	—
1945	8	2	5	—
1946	6	1	4	1
1947	6	—	3	1
1948	7	4	6	1
1949	6	6	1	—
1950	7	5	2	—
1951	3	2	1	—
1952	4	2	—	—
1953	5	8	1	—
1954	4	1	—	—
1955	14	2	—	—
1956	7	4	1	—
1957	6	1	—	1
1958	10	2	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1958 :—

Age periods	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Hexham Urban District			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulm.		Pulmonary		Non Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ..	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	6	4	2	—	—	—	—	—

	Cases Notified	Deaths
Gilesgate Ward .. ..	3	—
Leazes Ward .. ..	1	—
Priestpottle Ward .. ..	6	—
Hencotes Ward .. ..	2	—
	12	—

**FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)  
RETURNED TO REGISTRAR GENERAL**

1ST QTR.	2ND QTR.	3RD QTR.	4TH QTR.	TOTAL
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

## OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS :

Total Outbreaks—Nil. Total cases—Nil. Total deaths—Nil.

## OUTBREAKS DUE TO :

(a) Chemical Poisons .. ..	Nil.
(b) Salmonella Organisms .. ..	Nil.
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin) .. ..	Nil.
(d) Cl. Botulinum .. ..	Nil.
(e) Other Bacteria .. ..	Nil.

## OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE

Total Outbreaks—Nil. Total cases—Nil. Total deaths—Nil.

## SINGLE CASES :

Agent identified—Nil. Unknown cause—Nil. Total—Nil.

## HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

### 1. Hospitals

There are in the district two hospitals, namely the Hexham General Hospital and the Hexham War Memorial Hospital under the management of the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee. These hospitals together with others in the area under the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee and the Newcastle group of hospitals are available to cases from the area.

Cases of infectious diseases requiring admission to hospital are referred to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle upon Tyne.

### 2. Ambulance Service

The British Red Cross acting as agents for the Northumberland County Council provide an ambulance service which serves the district. An ambulance station is situated at West Orchard, Hexham.

### 3. Home Help Service

The Northumberland County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district. Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required owing to illness or confinement and their services are obtained through the office of the West Area Health Sub-Committee.

### 4. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

The following Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held in the district :

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC :—Abbey House, Hexham,  
Friday, 9-30 a.m.—12 a.m. and 1-30 p.m.—4-0 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC :—Abbey House, Hexham, first  
three Wednesdays in every month, 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.

### 5. Midwifery and Home Nursing

These services are now administered by the Northumberland County Council and in this district are combined. There are two Nurse Midwives working in the Hexham Urban District.



# REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(HUGH MITCHELL)

The Slaughterhouses Act 1958 was promulgated during the year. This Act came into force on 1st August, the day upon which it received the Royal Assent. The Act to a large extent follows the recommendations contained in the White Paper published in May, 1956. It revises the former policy, however, of moderate concentration, and, providing traders conform with standards laid down, and comply with town planning and other regulations, they can establish slaughterhouses for a limited period, probably two years, after which controls over the issue of licences will be introduced. Local Authorities will continue, as previously, to be the licensing authorities. Under this Act, slaughterhouses become factories for the purposes of the Factories Acts 1937 and 1948, and the safety, health and welfare of persons employed come under the jurisdiction of H.M. Factory Inspectors.

The Fatstock Marketing Corporation continue to use the Council's abattoir, and they also employ and provide the slaughtermen for all the work with the exception of one local butcher who prefers to slaughter his own sheep. A large number of animals are slaughtered for export to London, Newcastle and other places, and the abattoir is still recognised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as a Deadweight Certification Centre (No. 3090), having a Ministry grading officer on station.

The two caravan sites licensed by the Council are both connected to the town's sewers. They are approved as holiday sites only, and are not to become residential sites.

The common lodging house which served a useful purpose in the town for so many years ceased to function during the year, having been closed voluntarily by the owners.



## INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Factories and Workplaces .. .. .	294
Milk and Dairies .. .. .	99
Drainage Works : Alterations—additions .. .. .	46
New Constructions .. .. .	41
Defective .. .. .	29
Water Supply .. .. .	102
Food Premises .. .. .	742
Shops .. .. .	197
Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yards .. .. .	923
Moveable Dwellings .. .. .	59
Keeping of Animals .. .. .	27
Smoke Nuisances .. .. .	51
Offensive Trades .. .. .	18
Housing Visits, including Public Health and Housing Acts ..	139
Common Lodging Houses .. .. .	8
Disinfestation of Rats, Mice and other Vermin .. .. .	351

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

### Sanitary Circumstances

#### Drainage Works

New drains constructed .. .. .	15
Alterations/Additions .. .. .	19
Defective drains repaired .. .. .	9
Septic Tanks—Filters provided .. .. .	1

#### Sanitary Conveniences

Privies abolished .. .. .	1
Additional baths provided .. .. .	18
Additional sinks provided .. .. .	22

### Testing of Drains

All sewers and drains are tested by smoke under pressure or by hydraulic test.

### Water Supply

Water samples are collected from different parts of the town's services and despatched to the public health laboratory at the Newcastle General Hospital for bacteriological examination and report.

Number of samples collected from public services ..	60
---	----

## Notifiable Diseases

Terminal disinfection is carried out when necessary at cases of infectious disease investigated on notification. Faecal and other specimens collected are despatched forthwith to the public health laboratory at Newcastle General Hospital.

Number of faecal specimens collected	..	..	9
--------------------------------------	----	----	---

## Disinfestation

Approved insecticides are used in all cases for the eradication of vermin and parasites. The common house fly is still a nuisance, but is not now a serious problem. Precautionary measures were again taken during the year by the spraying of all refuse bins in the town.

The ordinary household ant has again been troublesome and very persistent and unless nests are destroyed quickly, several attacks have to be made with insecticides to combat the pest. The liquid insecticide containing pyrethram and malathion has been found to be most effective.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Number of premises registered to sell ice-cream	..	..	41
Number of premises registered during the year	..	..	2
Number of ice-cream samples collected	..	..	17

Results of grading of samples :

Grade 1	..	..	12
Grade 2	..	..	1
Grade 3	..	..	1
Grade 4	..	..	3

## FOOD

Within the area are 129 food premises of various kinds 61 of which are registered, including 41 retail sellers of ice-cream.

On food hygiene the readily given co-operation of management and personnel in the food handling premises has again been greatly appreciated by your inspectorate.

Included in the types of food premises visited are :—

- 9 Bakehouses
- 13 Cafes and Hotels
- 10 Butchers
- 12 Grocers
- 10 Greengrocers
- 4 Wet fish shops
- 3 Fried fish shops
- 3 Manufacturers of ice-cream

## FOOD INSPECTION

	UNSOUND FOOD	Surrendered	Seized	Legal Pro-ceedings
		sts. lbs.		
1	Beef (Home-killed) ..	1179 9	—	—
2	Beef (Imported) ..	— —	—	—
3	Mutton (Home-killed) ..	71 3	—	—
4	Mutton (Imported) ..	— —	—	—
5	Pork .. ..	94 2	—	—
6	Game .. ..	— —	—	—
7	Poultry .. ..	6 10	—	—
		lbs. ozs.		
8	Fish .. ..	— —	—	—
9	Fruit .. ..	— —	—	—
10	Canned Goods .. ..	1152 14	—	—
11	Bacon .. ..	— —	—	—
12	Cheese .. ..	— —	—	—
13	Butter .. ..	— —	—	—
14	Lard .. ..	— —	—	—
15	Eggs .. ..	— —	—	—
16	Other Foods .. ..	2070 8	—	—
TOTAL .. 1581 st. 16 lb. 6 oz.				

## NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE ABATTOIR

Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
2,806	132	7526	2,069	12,533

# **CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART**

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed .. ..	2133	673	132	7526	2069	Nil
Number inspected .. ..	2137	678	133	7535	2071	Nil
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned .. ..	6	27	12	22	12	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	191	90	5	87	39	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci .. ..	8.9	17.2	12.8	1.4	2.4	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned .. ..	5	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	40	48	Nil	Nil	4	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	2.1	7.9	Nil	Nil	.19	Nil
<i>C. Bovis :</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration .. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned .. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

## SUMMARY OF UNSOUND MEAT AND OFFAL

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases	Total
	lb.	lb.	lb.
Cows .. ..	3,798	10,224	14,022
Other Animals ..	4,198	12,419	16,617
TOTAL .. ..	7,996	22,643	30,639

All unsound meat and offal condemned at the Abattoir is collected by a processing firm from Gateshead where it is sterilized under supervision.

## TUBERCULOSIS IN COWS

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Whole Carcases condemned ..	28	25	20	24	16	22	11	6	3	5
Part Carcases or organs affected	60	57	71	38	28	112	55	53	21	48
Percentage affected ..	31.7%	26.3%	26.3%	20.2%	15.7%	23.3%	14.6%	12.0%	6.3%	7.8%

The table as a whole since 1949 shows a reduction in tuberculosis. The increase during the year was expected, owing to the great activity of the veterinary surgeon in the field and the general eradication policy of the Ministry.

## MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS

## THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Dealers Licences granted, " Pasteurised "	..	..	11
Dealers Licences granted, " Tuberculin Tested "			
" Pasteurised "	..	..	12
Dealers Licences granted, " Sterilised "	..	..	4

## THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Dealers Licences granted	..	..	..	..	11
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## MILK SAMPLES

Number collected :

(a) For Methylene Blue Test	..	..	..	120
(b) For Biological Report	..	..	..	6
(c) Phosphatase	..	..	..	5



## HOUSING

### TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1958

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	32	Nil.	32
(b) By any other Authority .. ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) By Private Persons	Nil	5	5

#### 1.—Closing and Demolition of Houses

(1) Number of houses demolished as a result of Clearance Schemes .. .. .	Nil
(Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas) .. .. .	Nil
(2) Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure .. .. .	2
(3) Houses closed .. .. .	4
(4) Parts of buildings closed .. .. .	Nil
(5) Other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings ..	2

#### 2.—Reconditioning and Repair

Number of unfit houses rendered fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

(1) As a result of informal action .. .. .	42
(2) By owners as a result of statutory action .. ..	Nil
(3) By local authority on default of owners .. ..	Nil

#### 3.—Inspection

(1) Number of houses inspected and visited for defects under Public Health or Housing Acts .. .. .	139
(2) Number of houses and parts found to have defects ..	41
(3) Number of houses and parts found to be wholly unfit for human habitation .. .. .	2

#### 4.—Housing Act, 1949

*Improvement Grant :*

Applications submitted to local authority .. ..	13
Applications rejected by local authority .. ..	1
Applications approved .. .. .	12
Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme .. .. .	86

## 5.—Families Rehoused during 1958

### *Under points scheme :*

From private houses (including 4 medical, 2 over-crowded cases, and 1 from unfit houses) .. ..	21
From Council houses (including 3 medical and 3 over-crowded cases) .. .. .	15

### *Decanted from Council houses :*

For moral overcrowding .. .. .	6
For under-occupation .. .. .	9
For medical reasons .. .. .	5
For other reasons .. .. .	21

### *To aged persons' bungalows :*

From Council houses (including 1 medical case) ..	3
From private houses (including 1 medical case, 1 eviction order) .. .. .	4

### *Other cases :*

For medical reasons .. .. .	3
Under eviction orders .. .. .	3
From unfit houses .. .. .	7
Key workers .. .. .	1
For other reasons .. .. .	8

### *Applicants rehoused other than Urban Council :*

By Hexham Rural Council .. .. .	2
Privately .. .. .	10
Bought own homes .. .. .	6

## 6.—Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and the Rent Act, 1957

### *Certificates of Disrepair :*

Number of applications for certificates .. ..	5
Number granted .. .. .	4
Undertakings received .. .. .	1

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Local authority	Dwelling houses.	Business premises.	Agricultural.
Number of properties inspected .. .. .	13	96	60	9
Number infested : (Rats	4	30	17	11
(Mice	1	2	5	Nil
Number of treatments ..	6	42	33	13
Total number of inspections and re-visits ' ..	24	171	111	45

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Under this act it is an offence to keep a pet shop except under the authority of a licence granted by a local authority. It applies to market stalls as well as established premises.

Number of licences granted .. .. . 2

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-54

Renewals of Licences to Slaughter	..	..	..	13
New Licences granted	..	..	..	Nil

**FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.****Inspections** (including Inspections made by Public Health Inspector)

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	8	39	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	73	231	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises) ..	5	24	—	—
TOTAL ..	86	294	—	—

**CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.**

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness .. ..	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	1	1	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	2	2	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	5	5	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes..	1	1	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	5	4	—	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	17	16	—	—	—











